fore January, 1988, one year later than conceived originally; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to operate the six gas based fertilizer plants coming up on this pipeline in the event of the delay in gas supply through this pipeline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHER SINGH): (a) The HBJ project is scheduled to be completed in all aspects by July, 1989. The first section of the pipeline, from Hazira to Guna, which was scheduled to be commissioned by March, 1987, to meet the fuel requirement of the fertilizer plant at Guna, is now likely to be delayed by about 3 months;

(b) Multi-fuel arrangements are being provided in the fertilizer plants for steam and power generation; no delay is expected in supply of gas for meeting feedstock requirements.

Application of new fibre optic technology

1399. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI P. N. SUKUL:
SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new fibre optic technology is being considered to meet the expanding demands of telephone density; and

(b) if so, what are the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir. Optical fibre Cable systems are proposed to be introduced in Telecommunication network.

(b) Cables with 12 fibres have been planned for being laid during 7th Five Year Plan covering a route legth of about 6000 kms. in long distance network and about 850 kms. for the local network.

Crude oil

1400. SHRI C. HARIDAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the areas where investigations are under way to explore crude oil; and

(b) the places in Kerala where such investigations have been or are being carried out and the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) The exploratory drilling is currently going on in the following basins/areas;

Cambay
Assam and Arakan
Kutch-Saurashtra
Rajasthan
Bengal
Cauvery
Krishna-Godavari
Arunachal Pradesh
Andaman Offshore
Bombay Offshore and
North East Coast.

(b) No exploratory drilling is being carried on in Kerala. It is, however, proposed to drill one well in 1986-87 in Offshore Kerala-Konkan.

Staff cars with I.O.C.

1401. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Staff cars which are in working condition with the Indian Oil Corporation at present;

(b) the daily road mileage each car is running;

(c) whether Government propose to fix the road mileage in respect of each car